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Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. American Society of International Law

(Special consultative status granted 1993)

When the American Society of International Law (ASIL) was founded in 1906 by Secretary of State Elihu Root, its purpose was to educate and engage the public in international law and to expand its frontiers as a vehicle for resolving disputes.

Through the years, ASIL's mission remains the same. But the world has changed. Today, international law affects not only government relations but also economics, trade, the environment, communications, transportation, health and human rights. It has become vital, not only to influential policymakers, leading academics, government officials and diplomats but also to attorneys, corporate decision makers, students and jurists located in towns large and small, across the country and throughout the world.

ASIL has approximately 4,000 individual members worldwide. Funding is based on membership, subscriptions, donations and interest from its deposits.

An ASIL delegate participated in the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, which convened in New York from 27 March to 12 April and from 24 July to 4 August 1994.

An ASIL delegate actively participated in the third meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which took place at Kyoto, Japan, from 1 to 10 December 1997, as well as subsequent meetings of the Conference of Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

An ASIL delegate participated in the forty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, from 10 to 21 March 1997 in New York.

An ASIL delegate attended the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements of Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations held from 8 to 12 May 1995 in New York.

An ASIL delegate attended the meeting of the Legal Subcommittee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held from 21 March to 8 April 1994 in New York.

An ASIL delegate attended the session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at Buenos Aires in April 1994.

An ASIL delegate attended the session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child held at Geneva in January 1994.

An ASIL delegate attended the meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development which took place from 4 to 22 April 1994 in New York.

An ASIL delegate attended the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention in July 1994.

ASIL has also participated in the United States of America United Nations Association United Nations Day on 10 December 1997.

Six ASIL delegates attended the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing in September 1995.

2. Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción

(Special consultative status granted 1989)

The Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción (FAD) is a private, non-profit-making institution, with no political or religious affiliation, of Spanish nationality and with its own legal personality; it is officially recognized as a charitable organization by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. FAD activities are concentrated on the prevention of drug problems through demand reduction.

From 1994 to 1997, bearing in mind the needs for prevention and the recovery and rehabilitation processes, FAD strengthened its programmes and strategies targeted at environments in which prevention may be possible: the family, the school, and recreational and leisure facilities. The activities carried out by FAD have aimed to meet three objectives simultaneously. First, social awareness-building, through constant efforts to empower the social conscience and to involve the various social agents actively in the face of a problem whose importance is not abating, and which requires their participation in preventive action. Second, the provision of solid technical support to all the activities which are undertaken. And, third, managerial capacity for the establishment of the various programmes and activities, which in some cases are carried out directly by the Fundación (telephone assistance, documentation centre, publications, campaigns, and so forth) through the creation of the appropriate operational structures, and in other cases are carried out in cooperation with third parties (implementation of programmes for schools, families, social

workers, police etc.); the functions of FAD vary in extent depending on the wishes of the institutions responsible for implementation (municipal councils, autonomous communities, European Commission, etc.).

During the period from 1994 to 1997 FAD carried out the following activities:

Publicity campaigns

Since 1989, FAD has maintained the only continuous publicity campaign in existence in Spain, encompassing radio, the press, home videos, cinema, and public and private television. The campaigns aim to enhance the level of information on the problem and facilitate the action of the various social agents involved. The enormous impact achieved in the communications media, which represents a landmark in the history of Spanish communications, has reached most of society, especially young people. The International Narcotics Control Board, in its annual report on the world drug situation, commended Spain on the campaign carried out by FAD in 1997 entitled "*Control*". Over 12,000 television spots have been broadcast.

Recreational and leisure activities

Promotion of sports, participation in fairs, camps, sports centres and organization of courses for youth workers. Over one million young people have participated.

Telephone information line (900)

This service provides to the persons concerned, their families and other interested parties, up-to-date information on assistance available, frameworks of action, and so forth, in the area of drug addiction. During the period 1994 to 1997, a total of 83,273 calls were handled.

Documentation centre

The largest Spanish language documentation centre. Bibliographic and documentary collection. From the documentation centre, documents concerning drug dependency emanating from all United Nations bodies are disseminated at the national level.

Web page (www.fad.es)

Includes information, preventive leaflets, documents, campaigns, programmes, materials, etc. The database and documents collection may be consulted directly on the Internet.

Publications

Periodical: Press bulletin, summary bulletin, catalogue of collections and information booklets.

Special: *Métodos científicos para la investigación de intervenciones preventivas* (Scientific methods for research on prevention strategies); *Programa de cooperación para América Latina* (Cooperation programme for Latin America); *Información general para la prevención* (General information on prevention); *La incidencia de las drogas en el mundo laboral* (The impact of drugs in the workplace); *Manual para profesionales de los servicios de salud laboral* (Manual for professionals in occupational health services); *Una década en la prevención de las drogodependencias: crónica de la FAD, 1986–1996* (A decade in the prevention of drug dependency: FAD chronicle, 1986–1996); *Publicación divulgativa sobre el uso de drogas en el deporte* (Information bulletin on drug use in sports); and also materials, guides and manuals accompanying each of the programmes.

Comprehensive school prevention plan

This programme seeks to involve schools by offering educators training in preventive aspects and appropriate teaching materials, along with continuous monitoring and advice from the experts of the Fundación. For this plan, various complementary or support programmes have been established, using strategies or means of communication such as the cinema, literature, music, sports, and so forth. These complementary programmes aim to facilitate the teacher's work in introducing subjects in the context of values education and health education.

Programme for the prevention of drug abuse within the family environment

This programme seeks to complement school action with family participation in the sphere of prevention.

Both the school programme and the family programme have been very well received and are highly regarded; the best indication of this is the continued and growing demand for them.

Youth programme: competition "Y tú ¿que piensas?" (And what do you think?)

The purpose of this programme is to provide guidance to young people between the ages of 16 and 18 on various aspects related to new patterns of consumption by establishing a strategy to facilitate reflection and group work

with a view to reducing levels of consumption of alcohol and other drugs among young people.

Other activities

Training programme for armed forces professionals who will subsequently be responsible for providing training in various military regions; training programme for youth and social workers, an activity directed towards leisure workers and social workers who work directly with young people; meeting with professionals of the communications media for training in the field of drugs; research work under the comprehensive school prevention plan, postgraduate courses in various universities, and so forth.

International sphere

International cooperation activities are being given strong impetus and accorded high importance, mainly on the basis of cooperation with the Commission of the European Community for various programmes in South America. The following projects have been carried out:

(a) Training programme for social workers and professionals, and extension of preventive programmes, in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela;

(b) Technical assistance in identifying Peru's needs in the area of drugs, financed by the European Commission, and technical advice to the Ministries of Health and Education of Peru in the identification of cooperation projects;

(c) Preparation of a report on comparative legislation on drugs in the Andean Pact countries;

(d) Publication of material on prevention to support the training of social workers and professionals;

(e) Creation of a CD-ROM and of interactive methodology for the training of communicators, financed by the "Leonardo da Vinci" programme of the European Community. Developed in cooperation with Italy and Portugal;

(f) Establishment of an Internet forum (www.forofad.org) as an instrument for exchanges with Latin America.

During the period 1994–1997, FAD attended meetings of the following international bodies:

(a) Economic and Social Council;

(b) Substance Abuse Department of the World Health Organization, as project coordinator;

(c) European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction of the European Community, as experts on drugs which are abused;

(d) European network of health data on drug abuse, a specialized centre for the dissemination of documentation and information attached to the Spanish drug monitoring centre;

(e) European Libraries and Information Services on Alcohol and Other Drugs, as members of the managing council;

(f) Substance Abuse Libraries and Information Services, as members;

(g) Committee of non-governmental organizations associated with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, as members;

(h) Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Fund (MENTOR foundation), as technical advisers to the council;

(i) European foundation of telephone assistance services, as a founding member;

(j) Regional Alcohol and Drug Awareness Resource, as associate members;

(k) Committee of non-governmental organizations associated with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, as members;

(l) European NGO Council on Drugs and Development, as members.

FAD regularly attends the meetings of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme at Vienna.

3. International Abolitionist Federation

(General consultative status granted 1997)

Background

The International Abolitionist Federation (IAF) was founded in 1875 by Josephine Butler, an eminent Victorian feminist. It has consultative status with UNESCO, UNICEF, the Council of Europe and the ILO. It has close working relations with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, UNDCP, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at Vienna, the United Nations Centre for Human Rights at Geneva and Interpol at Lyon, France. It has permanent representatives at the United Nations centres in New York,

Geneva and Vienna. It works closely with the international and national NGOs working in the areas of women, children and social welfare programmes.

Aims

It works towards the prevention of

(a) Traffic in persons;

(b) Exploitation of prostitution of others;

(c) All forms of discrimination based on gender;

(d) State regulation of prostitution;

(e) All forms of slavery and slavery-like practices.

To achieve its aims IAF promotes:

(a) Public awareness of the problems of prostitution and related crimes through its congress, conferences and publications;

(b) Social rehabilitation of victims of prostitution, traffic, violence and abuse by sponsoring projects for education, vocational training, health care and employment.

Activities

IAF geographical contacts have expanded particularly into Eastern Europe since its thirty-first global congress at Bucharest from 26 to 30 September 1994. It was possible to hold this congress only because of the kind donations and wide support of UNICEF, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, the Governments of France, Sweden and Romania, the International Development Authority of Sweden, ILO-Philippines, UNDP and the World Bank-Romania. Many representatives of these donor agencies participated at this congress. The United Nations Centre for Human Rights was represented by the Special Representative of the Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva. There were more than 200 participants who came from 45 countries, with 10 NGO representatives from other Eastern European countries.

The availability of funds has always been a major obstacle for expansion of IAF activities. It finds itself more and more restricted in pursuing its goals for the lack of adequate funding. In spite of this constraint, IAF has been able to fulfil many important functions in conformity with its objectives.

IAF was part of the NGO working groups at Geneva on the elaboration of a new protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. One group dealt with the subject of the "child soldier" and the other dealt with the "sale of children and pornography". IAF contributed to the latter group.

IAF considers its involvement with the NGO working groups and committees at the United Nations centres as an essential part of its United Nations representation. IAF with the NGO working groups at Geneva and Vienna, prepared the European Union's preparatory conference and NGO forum at Vienna (October 1994). As a member of the Executive Committee, it was responsible for the production of the newsletter and NGO registration. An official statement was prepared for the official conference on the topics "Girl child" and "Migrant women".

IAF actively cooperates and makes positive contributions at different NGO Committees both internationally and nationally on the topics "Women and peace", "Status of women", "Drug abuse and trafficking", "Violence against women", "Migrant women", "Traditional practices", "Family", "Children in armed conflicts", "Child prostitution, traffic and pornography" and "Crime prevention and criminal justice".

Every year, IAF participates in meetings of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Human Rights, and submits statements on the current situation regarding contemporary forms of slavery in different parts of the world. It has also formulated a joint statement with other NGOs to broaden the Working Group's mandate and for it to become a Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights for better effectiveness. This has been partly achieved.

IAF participated in the ILO conference in June 1994 on the development of standards for placement agencies that may lure women from one country to brothels in another country.

IAF participated at the meeting of the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in August 1994. It was invited to attend a UNHCR Executive Committee meeting in October 1994, and as a result of its input into a chapter of the UNHCR field guide, IAF received a letter of thanks for its cooperation and acquired the status of "official observer" (equivalent to consultative status).

IAF participated in the NGO Forum at the fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing from 30 August to 2 September 1995, and also at the official Conference from 4 to 15 September 1995. It participated at the reconvened fortieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on 3 and 4 December 1997 at Vienna. All these have been ongoing IAF activities during 1994–1997.

In addition, IAF:

(a) Delivered a keynote address at the NGO Forum for the World Summit for Social Development at Copenhagen on 8 March 1995;

(b) Participated actively in the First World Conference on the Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm, 27–31 August 1996);

(c) Along with other NGOs, worked on a draft convention based on the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, which lacks the force to combat the current complex problems of trafficking in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others;

(d) Prepared documents jointly with Geneva-based NGOs on sexual exploitation of children in Rwanda, and made studies on subjects of the impact of organized Mafia crimes in five countries — Israel, Egypt, the Syrian Arab Republic, Morocco and Tunisia. These documents were prepared with inputs from local NGOs and supported by UNICEF;

(e) Published documents of the thirty-first international congress of IAF in English and French, and distributed them to all participants, donor agencies, NGOs and interested public;

(f) Participated at an international conference on the theme "Violence, abuse and women's citizenship (Brighton, United Kingdom, 10–15 November 1996).

4. Christian Democratic International

(Special consultative status granted 1950)

Nature and objectives

Christian Democratic International (CDI) is an organization of political parties and organizations inspired by integral Christian humanism. Its main values and objectives are as follows: promotion and defence of human rights and national and international peace; recognition of the social nature of the human being and defence of basic social institutions, particularly the family; promotion and defence of democracy and democratic institutions; promotion of integral human development, with respect for nature and the preservation of natural resources; application of subsidiarity, solidarity and justice through the social market economy.

In order to respond adequately to the new realities which have emerged since the end of the cold war and the establishment of democracy in a considerable number of nations, CDI launched an internal reform process which resulted in the adoption, on 8 and 9 June 1995, of a basic document on principles and values of Christian democracy and of new statutes. During the period covered by this report, CDI expanded its geographical scope; its membership increased from 67 members at the beginning of 1994 to 76 members at the end of 1997.

Relations with the United Nations and participation in its activities

CDI representatives have been accredited every year to the three United Nations headquarters (New York, Geneva and Vienna), the regional economic commissions and the Department of Public Information at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

CDI has participated in United Nations conferences, including the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995) and the conferences on women's rights (Beijing, 1995) and population (Cairo, September 1994). It has also participated in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, where it has delivered statements on various agenda items.

It has participated in the conference and annual meeting of non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations in New York.

The central theme of the Eleventh General Assembly of CDI (Brussels, 8 and 9 June 1995) was the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations.

On 16 April 1994, the Deputy Secretary-General of CDI, together with the Secretaries-General of Socialist International and Liberal International, visited the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York to express their organizations' support for the World Summit for Social Development, which was to be held the following year in Copenhagen.

The President of CDI met in Geneva on 13 February 1997 with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Director-General of the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Deputy Director-General for ILO Activities in Europe.

International conferences

CDI has held conferences on the following topics, which coincide with the objectives of the United Nations or its subsidiary bodies: "Humanism and democracy in the

twenty-first century" (Santiago, 8 and 9 January 1994), at which the President of Chile made a statement; "An economy with a human face" (Manila, 19 to 23 November 1995), at which the main speaker was the President of the Philippines; "Human development in Latin America" (Santiago, 22 to 24 August 1996), at which the President of Chile was the main speaker; "Political development and religious currents in the Mediterranean basin" (Barcelona, 26 and 27 February 1997), at which representatives of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and of the President of the European Union, respectively, made statements; "Globalization and National Identity" (Paris, 6 November 1997), at which the main speaker was the President of Romania.

Promotion of peace and democracy

This is considered to be one of the organization's primary responsibilities and it has received ongoing attention. To this end, the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary-General of CDI have visited the following countries: Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania, Norway, Israel, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and the Philippines.

There they met with member parties and organizations of CDI, if any, participated in conferences on topics related to the principles and objectives of CDI and, whenever possible, met with government authorities, religious leaders and leaders of civil society. CDI has issued political statements and press releases on the following topics: elections in Equatorial Guinea; condemnation of the attempted coup d'état in Paraguay; need to advance towards unity in Europe; situation in southern Lebanon; presidential elections in Uganda; presidential elections in the Russian Federation; elections in Nicaragua; situation in the former Zaire; democracy for Myanmar; Oslo Agreement on peace in Guatemala; lifting of the embargo on the shipment of food and medicines to Cuba; proposals of CDI to promote positive change in Cuba; solidarity with the people of Yugoslavia and with the democratization initiatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; threats to democracy in Colombia.

Documents and publications

CDI has streamlined its publications in order to adapt to the new international reality and to its new working methods. Its publications include the CDI newsletter (six issues published in French, English and Spanish) and the proceedings of its international conferences.

5. International Council of Scientific Unions

(Special consultative status granted 1971)

Aims and purpose

ICSU was set up in 1931 to promote international scientific activity in the different branches of science and their applications for the benefit of humanity. Since its creation, ICSU has vigorously pursued a policy of non-discrimination, affirming the rights and freedom of scientists throughout the world to engage in international scientific activity without regard to such factors as citizenship, religion, creed, political stance, ethnic origin, race, colour, language, age or sex. Its two categories of members comprise 25 international scientific unions (an increase of two since the last report), which are international disciplinary organizations, and 95 national scientific members (an increase of three since the last report — Costa Rica, Uganda and Kazakhstan), which are mainly scientific academies or research councils promoting multidisciplinary cooperation and research at the national level. The complementarity of these two groups provides a wide spectrum of scientific expertise enabling members to address major, global interdisciplinary issues which none of them could handle alone. ICSU also has 28 scientific associates. Several joint initiatives are carried out in cooperation with UNESCO, WMO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, UNEP and FAO. Finally, because of ICSU's network of scientists around the world, it is increasingly called upon to act as the spokesperson for the world scientific community and as an adviser in matters ranging from ethics to the environment.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

ICSU's formal participation in the meetings and other activities of the Council is necessarily limited by its financial resources and the availability of suitable representatives, but the individual involvement of members of the scientific

community globally and their expert contribution to the many issues addressed by the Council and its subsidiary bodies is substantial. Below is a brief overview of the major activities in which ICSU was involved during the period under review.

The President participated in April 1994 in a meeting of executive heads of the agencies on climate issues. The Chairman of ICSU's Advisory Committee on the Environment was Chair of the Advisory Panel for a proposal for a climate agenda, which was adopted in 1995. ICSU has participated in each meeting of the Coordinating Committee on the World Climate Programme since 1993 (renamed the Inter-Agency Committee on the Climate Agenda (in 1997). ICSU continues to be actively involved in the follow-up to UNCED, and participated in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Executive Director of ICSU chaired a dialogue session on scientific and technological communities at the fifth session of the Commission, a report of which was presented to the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, in 1997. ICSU was well represented at UNESCO's twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth General Conferences (November 1995 and November 1997), with delegations which included its President and Executive Director. At the celebration of UNESCO's fiftieth anniversary, the President of ICSU was invited to speak on behalf of all NGOs. ICSU has been represented at meetings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

ICSU partnerships with the United Nations and its specialized agencies are numerous and cover many areas (notably environment and development). At the meetings of its various governing bodies, ICSU regularly reviews these relations and cooperation continues to expand. ICSU has formal cooperation agreements with several United Nations bodies, including UNESCO since 1946 and WMO since 1960, as well as IAEA (1960), FAO (1964), UNEP (1972), UNDRO (1980), IDNDR (1989), the Commission on Sustainable Development (1990) and WIPO (1993).

Of these, cooperation with UNESCO is the most wide-ranging. That organization provides funds annually to ICSU for allocation within the ICSU grants programme, in previous years through a subvention and since 1996 through three framework contracts for activities in the areas of the basic sciences, science in developing countries and global change. There are almost daily contacts between UNESCO headquarters, in particular the Science Sector, and the ICSU secretariat and members of ICSU. ICSU and UNESCO meet regularly to discuss collaboration on scientific issues of mutual interest. Preparations are under way for a world science conference, co-sponsored by ICSU and UNESCO, which will take place in 1999 at Budapest. The President of ICSU is Chairman of the International Science Advisory Board (set up in 1997) to the conference. ICSU is involved in helping organize a session of the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education, which was to be held in October 1998. In November 1997, ICSU was elected Treasurer of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee for one year. Frequent and close contact is maintained with various prominent UNESCO programmes, such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Man and the Biosphere Programme and the International Hydrological Programme. These contacts are made not only through the ICSU secretariat but also through the international scientific union members of ICSU and interdisciplinary ICSU bodies, such as the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology and the Inter-Union Commission on the Lithosphere, to mention only a few.

Cooperation with FAO was strengthened with the establishment of an ICSU Committee on Sciences for Food Security in 1996.

ICSU was a founding sponsor of the Earth Council's Organizing Committee set up after UNCED, and the Executive Director chaired several sessions at the Earth Council's UNCED five-year follow-up conference held in March 1997.

Through its special committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, ICSU has been closely involved with the IDNDR, and members from both bodies regularly attend each other's meetings. Contacts with WHO intensified during 1996. ICSU bodies have been asked to contribute to WHO's Advisory Committee on Health Research, and the ICSU Treasurer attended meetings of the Committee. A delegation of the ICSU ad hoc group on data and information was present at a WIPO information meeting on intellectual property in databases in September 1997. The group was set up in 1997 in response to the growing commercial pressure for new intellectual property laws concerning databases. It was decided at the meeting that action at the international level to develop a new *sui generis* database treaty should be indefinitely postponed. ICSU was co-sponsor with WMO and IOC of a conference on the theme "World climate research programme: achievements, benefits and challenges", which took place at Geneva in August 1997.

ICSU has several joint initiatives with United Nations agencies but the space constraints of this report only allow a brief listing. The Committee on Science and Technology in Developing Countries/International Biosciences Networks, which is co-sponsored by UNESCO, was originally two separate bodies set up in 1966 and 1979; these were merged in 1993 in order to streamline their activities. The International Geological Correlation Programme is a joint programme of the International Union of Geological Sciences, an international scientific union member of ICSU and UNESCO, set up in 1972. The WMO-ICSU-UNESCO/IOC world climate research programme was set up in 1980 as the successor to the global atmospheric research programme. More recently, joint initiatives on global observations have been set up. A memorandum of understanding between WMO, IOC, UNEP and ICSU for a global climate observing system was signed in 1992. WMO, ICSU and IOC agreed on establishing a joint scientific steering committee for a global ocean observing system in 1993. In 1993, FAO, ICSU, UNESCO, UNEP and WMO signed a memorandum of understanding to sponsor the global terrestrial observing system. An international programme of biodiversity science, DIVERSITAS, set up in 1991, is co-sponsored by the International Union of Biological Sciences, the International Union of Microbiological Societies (two ICSU members), ICSU's Scientific Committee on the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, ICSU, SCOPE and UNESCO. In 1987, the lectureships/professorships in science and sustainable development programme was set up by ICSU and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). Since 1989, this programme has also been sponsored by UNESCO and the Commonwealth Science Council, and the Earth Council joined as co-sponsor in 1993. A joint UNESCO/ICSU/TWAS short-term fellowship programme in the basic sciences was established in 1991.

Cooperation of a less formal nature (although this includes working relations) is also maintained with IAEA, ITU, UNDP, UNDRO and UNIDO.

Other relevant activities

As mentioned above, ICSU has a fundamental policy of non-discrimination. Discrimination of any form hinders the free communication and exchange of ideas and information, which is the keystone to the progress of science. Thus, the Standing Committee on Freedom in the Conduct of Science was created in 1963 (formerly the Standing Committee on the Free Circulation of Scientists), and acts as ICSU's watchdog on such matters. All the rights mentioned above, which the Standing Committee vigorously defends, are embodied in various articles of the International Bill of Human rights, to which reference is made in the ICSU statement on freedom in the conduct of science which was adopted in 1989. The Standing Committee continues to work successfully towards the resolution of cases involving the potential infringement of such rights of individual bona fide scientists.

ICSU closely follows progress in the implementation and planning of the conventions on climate change, biological diversity and combating desertification, providing scientific expertise when requested. The DIVERSITAS programme signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat in October 1997.

Cooperation between the United Nations system and the network of scientists worldwide which constitutes ICSU is active and varied, and far too extensive to be described in detail here. Through its network, ICSU reaches a million or so individual scientists, which in turn are in contact with the United Nations system, either directly or through their own national government agencies. ICSU has the advantage of being able to bring to the United Nations agencies which request its assistance impartial, well respected scientific advice. In turn, ICSU is able to interact with Governments and governmental agencies through the United Nations system in a way which would not otherwise be possible.

6. International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID)

(Special consultative status granted 1974)

Established in 1957, the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization seeking to advance the development and awareness of the profession of industrial design. Working with national and international professional, promotional and educational organizations, ICSID assists with programmes, workshops, exhibitions, congresses and international guidelines to enhance the professional skills of designers worldwide, and to educate industry, business, economic and consumer circles on the potential contributions of industrial design. The goal of these activities is to improve the standard of living and quality of life within communities worldwide through the awareness and application of good design practices.

ICSID headquarters have been located at Helsinki since 1985. In the four-year period from 1994–1997, ICSID

membership has increased by 31 per cent to consist of 151 societies from 52 countries (including expansion into 12 new countries). Annual fees from member societies constitute approximately 73 per cent of annual ICSID revenues.

As per the regional divisions regularly used by the United Nations (with North America added for clarity), ICSID membership and Executive Board representation during the 1994–1997 period can be seen as relatively proportionate:

Geographic region (as defined by United Nations)	*Membership (as of December 1997)*		*Regional representation on Executive Board (percentage)*		
	societies	*% of total*	*1993–1995*	*1995–1997*	*1997–1999*
Africa	4	2.7	0.0	9.1	9.1
Asia and the Pacific	35	23.2	18.2	18.2	18.2
Arab States	1	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Europe	88	58.3	45.4	54.5	45.4
Latin America	16	10.6	9.1	18.2	9.1
North America	7	4.6	27.3	0.0	18.2

Participation in United Nations meetings and conferences

During the 1994–1997 period, ICSID has tried to increase its active participation in various United Nations activities. Official United Nations meetings in which ICSID representatives have participated include the following:

(a) UNIDO meeting of the Industrial Development Board, seventh special session, attended by ICSID Executive Board Member Zdenka Burianová (Vienna, 22–27 April 1997);

(b) UNIDO Seventh General Conference, attended by ICSID Executive Board Member Zdenka Burianová (Vienna, 1–5 December 1996);

(c) UNESCO meeting of the Executive Board, 150th session, attended by ICSID Executive Board Member Zdenka Burianová (Paris, 8 October 1996);

(d) UNESCO 24th NGO conference, attended by ICSID representative to UNESCO Anne Marie Boutin (Paris, 11–12 December 1995);

(e) UNESCO Twenty-eighth General Congress, attended by ICSID representative to UNESCO Anne Marie Boutin (Paris, 25 October–16 November 1995);

(f) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, ninth session, "Promoting growth and sustainable development in a liberalizing and globalizing economy" (Midrand, South Africa, 27 April–11 May 1996). ICSID was represented in the conference exhibition under the banner "Design for trade and development".

Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- "Artists in development" creativity workshop programme, invitation to consult on development of the programme based on ICSID interdesign experience. Further collaboration continues with Culture and Development Coordination Office (CDC) Director Y. R. Isar and Project Coordinator Eleonore van der Linden (Paris, July 1997).
- Intergovernmental conference on the theme "Cultural policies for development: power of culture", invitation to host conference agora session received from CDC Director Dr. Y. R. Isar (Paris, November 1997).
- Cooperation in second phase of UNESCO review of participation programme (Paris, March 1997).
- Informal meeting between Acting Chief, NGO Section, External Relations Bureau, Michael Millward, ICSID President Uwe Bahnsen and ICSID representative to UNESCO Anne Marie Boutin. This meeting was initiated after the official NGO status (category B) of ICSID was reclassified to "informal", to discuss this reclassification and to identify possibilities through which to improve future collaboration (Paris, February 1997).
- "Culture and development: a symbiotic relationship" published in *ICSIDnews* April 1994. Author: member of the secretariat of the World Decade for Cultural Development, Mervyn Claxton (Paris, August 1994).

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

- Informal meetings to discuss possible ICSID-UNIDO collaborative efforts between ICSID President Uwe Bahnsen and NGO Section Chief Giuseppe Papuli, Industrial Quality Group Coordinator Octavio Maizza-Neto, Technology Services Director Fernando M. Machado and NGO Section Project Manager Nader Barzin (Vienna, 14 March 1997).
- Information meetings to discuss new role of UNIDO within the United Nations and possible ICSID-UNIDO

collaboration between ICSID Executive Board Member Zdenka Burianová and UNIDO NGO Office representative Doris Hribernigg (Vienna, December 1996).

World Intellectual Property Organization
(all meetings attended by ICSID representative Geoffrey Adams, Adviser in Design Protection Law and Practice)

- Annual meetings of the WIPO Committee of Experts on the revision of the Hague Agreement on the International Registration of Industrial Design (Geneva, seventh session, 3–5 November 1997; sixth session, 2–6 November 1996; fifth session, 13–15 June 1995; fourth session, 31 January–2 February 1994).
- Annual meetings of the WIPO Committee of Experts on a possible protocol to the Berne Convention (Geneva, seventh session, 20–26 May 1996; sixth session, 1–9 February 1996; fifth session, 4–8 September 1995; fourth session, 5–9 December 1994.
- The Hague Agreement: WIPO consultation with users and NGOs (Geneva, 7 November 1997).
- Presentation at EU conference on patents as an innovation tool (Vienna, 4–6 May 1997).
- WIPO diplomatic conference on copyright and related rights (Geneva, 2–20 December 1996).
- EU seminar on copyright and the information society (Florence, 2–5 June 1996).
- WIPO meeting of users of the Hague Agreement (Geneva, 16 June 1995).
- WIPO world forum on the protection of intellectual creations in the information society (Naples, 18–20 October 1995).
- General discussion of WIPO activities with NGOs (Geneva, 9 December 1994).
- WIPO worldwide symposium on future of copyright in light of new technology (Paris, 1–3 June 1994).
- Presentation at EC seminar on future strategies and objectives in intellectual property matters (Athens, 11–13 April 1994).
- Presentation at WIPO Asian regional seminar on industrial designs (Beijing, 1–3 March 1994).

United Nations Environment Programme

- *ICSIDnews* has continued to be sent regularly, at the specific request of UNEP Librarian, B. Y. Megherbi (Paris, November 1996).
- "UNEP — sustainable product development", article introducing Working Group on Sustainable Product Development and calling for contacts and participation, published in *ICSIDnews* April 1994. Author: Working Group Chairman J. C. van Weeren, Amsterdam (the Netherlands, August 1994).
- "United Nations Environment Programme", article introducing cleaner production programme, published in *ICSIDnews* February 1994. Information supplied from Executive Secretary M. Jansen (the Netherlands, March 1994).
- UNEP Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre, working group consultation through ICSID President Mai Felip, at suggestion of Director J. Aloisi de Larderel (the Netherlands, February 1994).

Activities in support of various United Nations resolutions, activities and mandates

During the 1994–1997 period, ICSID and its member societies have undertaken several projects, workshops, seminars and conferences in support of various United Nations resolutions and activities, including the following:

(a) The World Directory of Design Education was also updated to include almost 250 schools offering design education at the post-secondary school level, in 37 countries worldwide. The project was undertaken by ICSID Executive Board Member Zdenka Burianová under the auspices of the Slovak Design Center, Slovakia (distributed August 1997);

(b) An international seminar on the theme "Design without borders" was organized by ICSID promotional member society Artesanías de Colombia, with participants from 12 countries, including representatives from UNESCO and the Executive Board of the World Craft Council (Bogotá, 9–11 December 1996);

(c) An international forum on design in Mercosul was organized by ICSID Executive Board Member Eduardo Barroso Neto under the auspices of ICSID promotional member society, Laboratório Brasileiro de Design Industrial (Florianópolis, 12 October 1995);

(d) The Second International Conference on Design Education in Developing Countries was organized by ICSID Executive Board Member Adrienne Viljoen under the auspices of ICSID promotional member society Design Institute of the South African Bureau of Standards (Cape Town, 23–25 February 1995). CDC Director Y. R. Isar was an invited speaker at this conference;

(e) An international forum on design and cultural diversity was organized by ICSID Executive Board Member

Eduardo Barroso Neto under the auspices of ICSID promotional member society Laboratório Brasileiro de Design Industrial (Florianópolis, 1994).

ICSID interdesigns have been hosted for over 25 years in an attempt to bring designers worldwide together to address issues of both local and international significance. While some ICSID interdesigns have been in direct collaboration with United Nations societies, all such workshops address issues consistent with United Nations objectives, and are often inspired by United Nations-specified themes and directives. Some examples were:

- "Cuernavaca interdesign '96: design strategies for regional development". Seventy-five participants from 16 different countries collaborated to identify and develop existing and potential new industries in areas that were lacking an established industrial infrastructure (Mexico, 14–16 October 1996).
- "Baltic interdesign '96: wood: global resource". Thirty-seven designers from 14 countries examined ways through which local designers and architects could add value to the Baltic wood industry for both domestic and international markets, with a focus on product designs that would represent Baltic culture and enhance community environments (Latvia, 8–22 September 1996).
- "Tasmania interdesign '95: sustainable development, the design imperatives". Forty-one designers investigated the meaning of the word "sustainable", and then developed strategies for sustainable practices in the following sectors: food, forestry, tourism, hydro-electricity, small business and community governance (Australia, 30 June–16 July 1995).
- "ICSID interdesign Bogotá '94: crafts as a source for interior design". Thirty Colombian artisans worked with 20 local designers and 12 internationally recognized experts from nine countries to develop ways through which the local crafts industries could position their products within domestic and international markets (Colombia, 23 November–7 December 1994).
- "ICSID interdesign Bergslagen '94: transport for the future". Seventy designers from 19 different countries worked on the development of ideas for new or existing products within the transport industry (Sweden, 22 May–5 June 1994).

ICSID has also continued to support United Nations programmes by providing links on the ICSID Web site; including United Nations events in the monthly calendar of international events, and maintaining open lines of communication with several key individuals in the United Nations international network.

7. International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

(General consultative status granted 1974)

The purposes of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) are to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among voluntary agencies by Governments, intergovernmental organizations and the international community in efforts to alleviate human suffering and to foster just and sustainable development; to promote effective partnership among voluntary agencies across all regions of the world through dialogue, exchange of views and efforts to build common perspectives and to coordinate activities; and to collect, coordinate, disseminate information to peoples, Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations throughout the world on the humanitarian problems addressed by voluntary agencies.

The number of international NGOs and/or NGO networks members of ICVA is 83, of which 16 are in African countries, 17 in Asian countries, 18 in European countries, 15 in countries from Latin America and the Caribbean, 11 in countries in North America, one in Oceania and five in countries in the Middle East.

ICVA has made annual statements to the Commission on Human Rights, and has facilitated the annual NGO statement to the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees.

In February 1995, ICVA was present at the OAU/UNHCR regional conference on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura, and was involved in preparing the joint NGO statement to the meeting.

ICVA was actively involved from the beginning in the preparatory process of the World Summit for Social Development, and was also active in the parallel NGO Forum held at Copenhagen in March 1995 during the Summit, also participating in the drafting of the Copenhagen alternative declaration. As part of the NGO Forum, ICVA, in cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council, organized a symposium on the role of the NGO emergency assistance in promoting peace and reconciliation.

Realizing the importance of strengthening the UNHCR/NGO partnership to enhance international humanitarian response in favour of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, UNHCR and ICVA launched a number of worldwide consultations over a period of 12 months, known as "partnership in action" consultations. Regional meetings were held between UNHCR and some 450 NGOs at Caracas, Kathmandu, Tunis, Bangkok, Addis Ababa and Budapest, which together with supplementary consultations in Canada, Japan and the United States, culminated in the global NGO/UNHCR partnership in action conference at Oslo from 6 to 9 June 1994. UNHCR and NGOs adopted the Oslo plan of action, containing 134 recommendations on how to reinforce the UNHCR/NGO partnership. ICVA organized a series of regional training workshops involving NGOs and UNHCR officials on how to put into practice those recommendations. ICVA developed terms of reference for NGO focal points to secure a representative structure among NGOs. UNHCR also developed terms of reference for its focal points, which were appointed in every branch office and in each regional bureau office at headquarters. ICVA worked closely with UNHCR in producing guidelines and writing handbooks for NGOs involved in UNHCR field operations, such as the guidelines on protection for NGOs working with internally displaced persons and refugees.

ICVA facilitated meetings of NGOs with UNHCR informal technical consultations on overhead costs of NGO partners. This resulted in instructions being issued to all UNHCR field offices concerning overheads of NGO implementing partners. ICVA also hosted the UNHCR briefings for NGOs on the work of the new Standing Committee of the UNHCR Executive Committee.

ICVA continued to work closely with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and participated regularly in meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its working group as one of the three NGO umbrella organizations members of IASC. ICVA participated on the inter-agency mission to Somalia, which took place from 1 to 7 February 1996 to review United Nations humanitarian operations and address concerns raised by humanitarian partners in the field. ICVA initiated a programme of regular Department of Humanitarian Affairs/NGO meetings at Geneva, hosted by ICVA, at which the Department exchanged perspectives with NGOs on major issues.

ICVA worked closely with the NGO UNDP Liaison Officer at Geneva to enhance NGO/UNDP relationships, and to support UNDP in its efforts to work more closely with NGOs in the field.

ICVA initiated the establishment of an NGO coordination unit in August 1994 at Kigali. When UNREO moved out of Kigali, the NGOs working in the country set up an NGO forum.

ICVA was instrumental in regularizing meetings between the International Organization on Migration and NGOs to share information and concerns and develop responses to major migration trends and issues. An area of particular concern was the Commonwealth of Independent States, where ICVA had a close working relationship with IOM, UNHCR and OSCE.

ICVA participated actively in preparatory work for the Conference on Refugees, Returnees, Displaced Persons and Related Migratory Movements in the Countries of the CIS and Relevant Neighbouring States, which took place at Geneva on 30 and 31 May 1996, organizing a preparatory consultative meeting on 29 May 1996, which brought together some 75 NGOs from the CIS region and neighbouring States. ICVA submitted an oral statement to the Conference. ICVA also held a workshop on the role of NGOs in the implementation of the adopted plan of action. In collaboration with NGOs and UNHCR/IOM, ICVA organized a regional follow-up to the CIS conference consultation in November 1996.

From 30 September–4 October 1996, ICVA launched an international exhibition and conference, entitled WorldAid '96, aimed at improved coordination, more effective disaster response, and better understanding and greater transparency in the procurement process. This initiative was fully sponsored by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and UNDP. The next exhibition and conference are scheduled for October 1998.

ICVA was represented at the World Food Summit, which was held in Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996, and participated in the NGO forum on food security which ran parallel to the Summit. The ICVA representative was involved in the drafting of the NGO forum statement which was delivered at the World Food Summit, and which was entitled "Profit for few or food for all".

ICVA was requested by UNDP to identify NGO participants for the UNDP international conference on governance for sustainable growth and equity, which took place in New York from 28 to 30 July 1997. ICVA also participated in the conference.

Due to severe financial difficulties, at its meeting on 30 May 1997 the ICVA Executive Committee recommended to the membership that the organization cease its activities. However, a group of members produced an alternative

recommendation, which was subsequently adopted by the membership, to suspend activities for a short period, during which time efforts would be made to restructurize and develop alternative working methods. Thanks to a generous grant from UNHCR and special contributions from ICVA's member agencies, the ICVA secretariat was kept open with a minimum staff (one senior secretary). A consultant produced a plan for the restructurization of the organization, which was approved at the 7 October 1997 meeting of ICVA's Executive Committee.

During the period June 1997–February 1998, the ICVA secretariat was overviewed by ICVA's Acting Chair, with the assistance of working committees on finance, world aid, and restructuring. Member agencies represented ICVA at major meetings. In early April 1998, the ICVA secretariat recommenced its activities and now has a Coordinator, an Assistant Secretary to the Coordinator and a Bookkeeper. Funding has been received from Governments, and cooperation with the United Nations system is continuing actively.

8. International Union of Latin Notariat

(Special consultative status granted 1978)

Background

The first step towards the establishment of the International Union of Latin Notariat (UINL) was the convening of a first international congress of notaries in Buenos Aires, in October 1945. In October 1998, the Union will hold its twenty-second congress, in Buenos Aires, to mark its fiftieth anniversary.

Aims

The aim of the Union continues to be to promote, coordinate and develop at the international level the role of the notary as a technical and legal expert who ensures impartiality in private contractual relations, with the ultimate aim of forestalling and preventing controversies and conflicts. Notaries ensure juridical safety in the field of private contractual relations.

The Union represents the profession in all kinds of international organizations, both global and regional (United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Organization of American States and Latin American Integration Association, European Economic Community, Council of Europe and Asian and African organizations) and in the other private organizations which seek to promote the harmonization and modernization of law (Hague Conference, International Association of Judges and International Bar Association).

It also seeks to uphold the profession and to work with national groups to constantly improve the quality of the services that notaries provide to the population that they serve, seeking to foster continuing improvement and updating of knowledge through studies, seminars, congresses and publications, paying particular attention to notaries from developing countries in America, Africa and Asia or from European countries where the profession has recently been re-established following the restoration in those countries of systems having greater political and economic freedom.

Recognition by the United Nations

The criteria as regards objectives, membership, structure and activities, which the Economic and Social Council took into account when according the Union consultative status, remain in full force. The Union continues to meet the Council's every criteria and its activities are fully in line with the ideals of the United Nations.

Membership

Membership has more than doubled since the time of the Union's establishment. In the period covered by this report (1994–1997) 16 new countries have been admitted as members: Albania, Burkina Faso, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Guinea, Indonesia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Panama, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia and South Africa. As of December 1997, there were 67 member countries.

Activity of the Union in support of the goals of the United Nations

Representatives of the Union participate in all forums of the United Nations, both at headquarters and elsewhere, on issues related to the Organization's objectives, *inter alia*, on matters relating to human rights, specifically with reference to civil, economic, social, cultural and political rights; these forums include, *inter alia*, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and the various bodies dealing with the status of women, protection of children, families, the environment and human settlements.

The Union also participates in the work of other organizations of the United Nations system, particularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

Examples of the activities of the Union which are in keeping with the purposes of the United Nations include the signing in Vienna, on 11 February 1994, of a protocol of cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the signing in Paris, on 28 April 1998, of a similar protocol with the Director-General of UNESCO.

To commemorate Human Rights Year, the Union has chosen "fundamental human rights and the notary's mission" as one of the main themes to be considered at its twenty-second international congress, which is scheduled to be held in Buenos Aires in October 1998.

Seminars and publications

The Union and affiliated national organizations are constantly organizing congresses, seminars, colloquia and meetings of all kinds to discuss and analyse, primarily from the legal standpoint, issues relating to human rights, the protection of consumers, the family, children, the environment and other issues, in accordance with the aims and objectives of the United Nations.

The Union and its affiliated organs publish countless journals and articles, particularly by fellow notaries, on a wide variety of legal issues of general interest. Of particular note is the scientific journal *Notarius International*, which began publication in 1996 and which contains articles by leading notaries on issues of current interest; the other periodical is the journal *RIN* which is more informative in nature and which has been going for over 40 years.

Of particular interest is the publication by the Union's committee on European affairs of a very interesting work on the law applicable to staff members of international organizations, which we consider to be of particular interest to staff members of the United Nations and which the Union makes available to everyone.

Given that this summary of activities has to be very short in accordance with the guidelines established by the Council, it is not possible to dwell on the many other activities carried out by the Union and its affiliates in support of the ideals and objectives of the United Nations; however, we would be happy to provide any further information that might be requested.